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Serial No.: 09/647,711
Amendment dated June 1, 2004
Response to Office Action dated February 3, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. By the present amendment, claims 1 and 6 are amended.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A database access tool comprising:
 means for constructing database queries;
 a query store for storing previously constructed database queries,
said query store being separate from said database;
 a search tool operable to receive said constructed query and search
the query store for a previously constructed query that resembles said constructed
query for searching the query store against a constructed query; and
 query submission means for selecting between a constructed query
and a query located against it from the query store by the search tool, and for
submitting the selected query to a database.

Claim 2. (*Original*) A tool according to Claim 1 wherein the means for
constructing database queries comprises user input means for loading data to at
least one data field in a database query and the search tool comprises means to

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calculate a similarity factor between the data fields in database queries stored in the query store and at least one data field in a newly constructed database query.

Claim 3. *(Original)* A tool according to Claim 2 wherein the query store and the search tool are constructed according to use of case based reasoning (CBR) and the means for constructing database queries does so to construct a query as a case.

Claim 4. *(Previously Presented)* A tool according to Claim 2 wherein management information data is collected in use of the tool to submit queries to the database, the tool further comprising means for collecting said management information, structuring the management information for a respective query in the same manner as a database query constructed by the tool and loading the structured management information to a management information data store, said management information data store being searchable by means of the search tool.

Claim 5. *(Previously Presented)* A database according to claim 1, further comprising a data store for storing results associated with previous database queries and wherein the search tool is further operable, when a located query is

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identical or similar to the constructed query, to return the results stored in the data store that are associated with the located query.

Claim 6. *(Currently Amended)* A method of accessing a database, the method comprising:

constructing a database query;

searching a query store containing previously constructed database queries for a previously constructed query that resembles a constructed query against ~~the constructed query~~, said query store being separate from said database;

selecting between the constructed query and a query located against it from the query store of previously constructed queries during the searching step; and

submitting the selected query to the database.

Claim 7. *(Previously Presented)* A method according to claim 6, wherein the step of constructing a database query comprises a user loading data to at least one data field in a database query.

Claim 8. *(Previously Presented)* A method according to claim 7, wherein the step of searching comprises calculating a similarity factor between data fields

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in database queries stored in the query store and at least one data field in the newly constructed database query.

Claim 9. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 7, wherein the query store is constructed by case based reasoning.

Claim 10. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of constructing a query comprises creating a query as a case using case based reasoning, and the step of searching comprises using case based reasoning.

Claim 11. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 6, further comprising:

collecting management information data for a query submitted to the database;

structuring the management information in the same manner as the respective query; and

loading the structured management information to a searchable management information data store.

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Claim 12. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 6, further comprising:

storing results associated with a submitted query in a data store.

Claim 13. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 12, further comprising:

returning results for the submitted query from results previously stored in said data store when the located query is identical or similar to the constructed query, said previously stored results being associated with the located query.